

## **REMARKS**

In this reply to the Office action, claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12-14, 16-17, 23-26, 34-35, 39-40, 42-43, 46, 49-52, 55, and 58 have been amended and claims 4, 7, 30, 33, 53, and 54 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 5-6, 8-28, 31-52, and 55-60 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 9-12, 14-16, 20-25, 35-38, 40-42, 46-51 and 55-59 were objected to as being in improper form. As a result of the amendments to the claims, it is believed that there no longer are any multiple dependent claims dependent on another multiple dependent claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to form is respectfully requested.

In the Office action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 17, 26, 30/26, 31/30/26, and 43/26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bobb (U.S.P.N. 5,115,127); claims 1, 2, 17-19, 26-28, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sun (U.S.P.N. 4,986,671); claims 6, 27, 28, 30/27, 30/28, 31/30/27, 31/30/28, 32, 43/27, and 43/28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobb; and claim 52 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bobb and Shah (U.S.P.N. 6,847,034). Claim 60 was indicated to be allowable; claims 7, 8, 13, 33, 34, 39, and 54 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 7 and intervening claim 4.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 33 and intervening claim 30.


Claim 52 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 54 and intervening claim 53.

Claims 13 and 39 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The application should therefore be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections and objections and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner feel that a telephonic interview would help speed this application towards issuance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (101.0118/SHL.0433US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diana M. Sangalli', written over a horizontal line.

Date: April 11, 2008

Diana M. Sangalli, Reg. No. 40,798  
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.  
1616 South Voss Road, Suite 750  
Houston, TX 77057-2631  
713/468-8880 [Phone]  
713/468-8883 [Fax]